

# PACIFIC COUNTY



PACIFIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
National Historic Site

## Public Health and Human Services Department

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### **PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 28, 2011

Contact: Katie Lindstrom, 360-642-9300 ex 2648

### **Long Beach Peninsula Designated a Substance Abuse Prevention Site**

Long Beach- The Long Beach Peninsula has been selected as one of 19 communities statewide to take part in a new Substance Abuse Prevention Redesign Initiative (PRI) by the Department of Behavioral Health & Recovery. The purpose of this initiative is to develop new coalitions or support existing ones and provide direct substance abuse prevention programs to youth in our schools and community. WellSpring Community Network has been chosen as the coalition that will work to design and implement the PRI plan in community along with ESD 112 staff in our schools.

DBHR is supporting this Initiative in order to focus community and school-based prevention resources in the same targeted communities across the state, increasing opportunities to see community-wide changes to drug prevalence rates and associated consequences. Beginning July 1, 2011, DBHR will provide funding and support to focus on keeping youth, young adults and others free of alcohol and other drug misuse, while creating a healthier community. The support will include training, technical assistance, and funding for community and school-based prevention programs. To achieve the primary goal of reducing underage drinking and the related negative consequences such as juvenile crime, the community coalitions will identify the highest prevention needs, plan and implement evidence-based strategies, leverage local resources and evaluate the impact of selected programs.

“Our goal in redesigning and targeting our state prevention services is to leverage enough resources in the highest-need communities to achieve greater reductions in substance abuse and the harm it causes”, said David Dickinson, DBHR’s Director. “Community leaders are prepared to use these resources to help more young people succeed, and to improve the health and safety of their community” added Dickinson.

WellSpring enjoys representation from multiple sectors in our community including parents, youth, law enforcement, health department, mental health, treatment, educators, faith leaders,

volunteer groups, government, media, mental health, the Boys & Girls club, and healthcare, just to name a few. The group's mission is to promote wellness by reducing substance abuse, increasing opportunities for parent enrichment, and increasing access to mental health services and programs. WellSpring board chair Rosanne McPhail adds "WellSpring is committed to supporting programs and policy change that will create a healthier environment for kids in our community. We are very excited to have been selected as part of the prevention re-design project and look forward to working with DBHR and our other funders to develop comprehensive substance abuse prevention programming on the Long Beach Peninsula".

PRI communities will focus on reducing underage drinking among 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, improving academic performance, and reducing juvenile crime. DBHR will expand PRI in the next three years to identify approximately 50 high need communities in Washington State.

If you'd like to get involved in WellSpring or learn more about prevention re-design, please contact Katie Lindstrom at 360-642-9300 ex 2648.